HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUARTERLY

of the

National Council for
Historic Sites and Buildings

Volume IV, No. 4 Winter 1952

COUNCIL-TRUST MEETING

Adoption of joint resolutions for re-organization was the principal item of business at the concurrent meeting of the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings and the National Trust for Historic Preservation held November 14 and 15 in Washington, D. C. The National Trust, a non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization chartered by Congresss on October 26, 1949, agreed to become a membership organization and accepted into membership the 101 member organizations and 500 members of the National Council.

The National Trust also assumed direction of the Council's program for the preservation and interpretation of "sites, buildings, and objects significant in American history and culture for public benefit." An amendment to the National Trust charter will be proposed to Congress to effect the re-organization.

The sixth annual meeting of the National Council and its Executive Board had the largest attendance in its history with about 250 members and delegates present. Those present unanimously concurred in the re-organization agreement.

Following the business meeting, Andrew H. Hepburn, Jr., Boston architect, presented a lecture illustrated with colored slides of the early historic buildings of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. At the luncheon meeting, Douglas William Orr, Vice Chairman of the Commission on the Renovation of the White House, told of the problems encountered in the restoration of the nation's executive mansion. About 255 members and guests went to the White House that afternoon where they were received by Mrs. Harry S. Truman. Mrs. Arthur Woods gave a tea in her historic Georgetown house, built in 1800 by John Laird and later occupied by Robert Todd Lincoln.

At the sixth annual dinner held that evening, David E. Finley, presided, and the Hon. Charles Bruggman, Swiss Minister; Mrs. T. I. Hare Powel, Regent of *Mount Vernon;* and Wilmarth Lewis, scholar and author, were principal speakers.

Saturday morning the preservation forum was held, conducted by three government experts. Ronald F. Lee, Assistant Director of the National Park Service, spoke on master plans; Frank H. Mortimer, Director of Typography and Design of the Government Printing Office, analyzed the printing problems of preservation groups and their good and bad solutions; and Carl Feiss, Chief of the Planning and Engineering Branch of the Division of Urban Redevelopment, suggested ways in which the Housing Act of 1949 could be applied to conservation of historic areas in old cities that have become blighted. Frederick L. Rath, Jr., served as chairman for the discussion which followed from the floor.

A trip to Virginia was scheduled for the afternoon, with a special invitation to members and guests to visit *Mount Vernon* and *Gunston Hall,* home of George Mason. The meeting concluded with a reception at *Woodlawn Plantation,* the first historic property to be administered by the National Trust. Members were received by Henry H. Surface, Administrator of the National Trust, and Mrs. Surface, and Worth Bailey, Curator of *Woodlawn Plantation,* and Mrs. Bailey.

During the reception a group of members of the A.I.A. Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings, under the chairmanship of Earl H. Reed held a brief meeting.

At an Executive Board meeting held December 30, it was decided to hold the next meeting during the first week in October in Newport and Providence, R. I.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

It having been proposed by the Executive Board of the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings on October 13, 1952, in order to effect the functional reorganization of the affiliated organizations, that any member of the National Council who did not object in writing, would become enrolled as a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, the matter was submitted to the members and delegates at the Sixth Annual Meeting held November 14 in Washington. At that time all members and delegates present voted unanimously in favor of the resolution. This arrangement was also approved by the Board of Trustees of the National Trust. This action authorizes membership in both organizations upon the single payment of dues to the National Trust. Annual dues in the future are payable to the National Trust. However, if checks inadvertently should be made payable to the National Council such amounts will be transferred to the funds of the National Trust.

Gunston Hall, 1755-1758, restored home of George Mason, Virginia patriot and author of the Declaration of Rights. *Max D. Engelhart.*

712 JACKSON PLACE

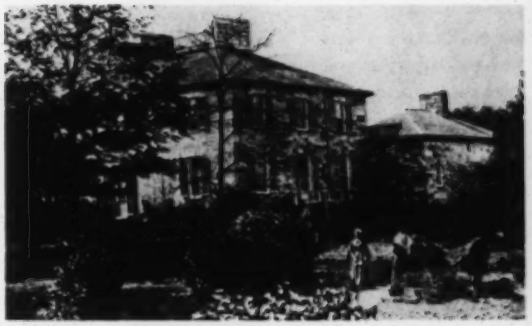
Aubrey R. Marrs, tax administrator, author and lawyer, has been named as legal consultant to the National Trust. Mr. Marrs, a resident of Mt. Rainier, Md., attended Marshall College, Columbia University and Georgetown University Law School. He was with the U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue from 1920 to 1951, retiring from a position as head of the technical staff. He is author of *Reflections of a Revenuer* (1948), and *Work and Jurisdiction of the Bureau of Internal Revenue* (1948).

Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Director, flew to San Antonio, Texas in October, to attend a special celebration of the San Antonio Conservation Society. He made a tour of historic sites of the city, including those administered by this member organization. He addressed several hundred of the members on the program of the National Trust at a special meeting and tea in his honor. From there he went to Houston to attend the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History. He returned to Washington by way of New Orleans, where he spoke to a special meeting of the Louisiana Landmarks Association a new member organization.

Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Chairman of the Committee on Historic Preservation, and Hardinge Scholle, Consultant, held a meeting in Chicago of the Committee's Great Lakes section. While in Chicago, Mr. Scholle gave an illustrated lecture, "In Trust for the Nation," on the field of interest of the National Trust and its service in preservation, to the Guild of the Chicago Historical Society. Mr. Scholle represented the Trust at the opening of the Moses Myers House in Norfolk, Va., under the auspices of the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences. He and Franco Scalamandré, a Trust member, were speakers on a program on "Textiles in Historic American Houses."

"Dr. William Thornton and his Architecture" was the subject of an illustrated lecture by Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, Historian, to a meeting of the Alexandria Association in December.

Jay Walz of the *New York Times* staff, on page 24 of the Travel section of the Sunday *Times* December 21, wrote an article on "U. S. National Trust," explaining the recent re-organization of the Trust and its program of service to the cause of preservation. Many readers have written from different sections of the country asking for conditions of membership and for help with local preservation problems.



Adena in 1867. From photograph owned by Thomas C. Worthington, *Ohio State Historical and Archaeological Society.*

OHIO SESQUICENTENNIAL

To celebrate its 150th anniversary, the State of Ohio is planning a series of special events and programs for the year 1953. On January 8, an Ohio State Exhibit opened at the Library of Congress, displaying notable prints and documents in the state's history. Speakers for the occasion were Dean Carl Wittke of the Graduate School of Western Reserve University, and Senator Robert A. Taft.

The Highway Department is planning to mark fifty towns and cities with historic markers as its contribution to the program. Each of the 88 Ohio counties is scheduling pageants, fairs, and other special commemorative events. The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society is making extensive repairs to Our House Museum, an 1819 tavern in Gallipolis, and to *Adena* the palatial Chillicothe home of Thomas Worthington built from plans by Benjamin H. Latrobe, 1806-7.

ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT

On December 17, a national year-long celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Powered Flight opened in Washington, D. C. The opening date was chosen to commemorate the flight of Wilbur and Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, N. C. Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, who received the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, is chairman of the committee for the observance plans, which will include a series of events throughout next year, marking the sites that were the landmarks of aviation progress, and stimulation of youth interest in aviation careers.

The Library of Congress is a cooperating member of the Anniversary Committee and exhibited the original photograph of the first flight, and Orville Wright's diary of 1903 in its "Milestones of American Achievement." Publication of the papers of Orville Wright, which are now owned by the Library, is scheduled for next fall.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

President: Mrs. F. B. Crowninshield
Chairman of the Executive Board: David E. Finley
Director: Frederick L. Rath, Jr. *Administrator:* Henry H. Surface
Editor: Helen Duprey Bullock *Business Manager:* Betty W. Morris

THE NEW NATIONAL TRUST

In this personalized editorial, I am to say farewell to the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings while I hail the "new" National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is not an unpleasant role, for it is my strong belief that the recent re-organization opens a new chapter in the history of the preservation movement in the United States. We are today very close to achieving a great end, a single organization composed of all those societies and individuals who believe that significant portions of America's rich historic heritage of sites and buildings and objects should be saved.

The mechanics of the re-organization are covered elsewhere in this quarterly. The membership, the assets, and the program of the National Council have been taken over by the Congressionally-chartered National Trust by agreement between the two organizations. Technically the National Council will remain in existence, at least until the National Trust charter can be amended. But the National Council will no longer be an active organization. This, for example, is the last issue of *Historic Preservation* that will be printed under its aegis; the spring number, opening a new volume, will be a National Trust publication. All correspondence and all new literature, some of which is now coming off the presses, bears the name of the National Trust.

All of this is being done in order to strengthen and perfect our organization. Logical and natural as the early development was, it was proving impossible to have two societies with a single staff concerned with what was in reality one program. A joint committee proposed and the governing bodies and membership agreed that the time for unification had come. So we have a "new" National Trust for Historic Preservation.

More than a hundred organizations and some 500 individuals are affected by this decision. With this nucleus we propose to build the National Trust into a still greater national society. Your own part in this development can begin immediately, for we are enclosing with every copy of this quarterly a newly-printed invitation to join the National Trust. It is our hope that you will place this in the hands of some individual or officer of an organization not now a member of the National Trust. Having achieved unity, we are now ready to embrace as members all those hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals who will wish to participate in the program of an alert and dynamic organization which will serve the cause of preservation everywhere.

F. L. R., Jr.

THE NATCHEZ PLAN

One of the most comprehensive plans for the preservation and redevelopment of an historic city, including long-range planning for present-day and future needs, has just been published. On the advice of a Trust member who is an authority in the field, we recommend to those concerned with the future of their own historic city, *The Plan for the Future Development of Natchez, adopted by the City Planning Commission of Natchez, November 2, 1951; approved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Natchez November 6, 1951.* Its 66 pages include color plates, maps, plats, photographs and early prints of historic houses, and text of the zoning ordinance. Copies may be obtained for $3.50 from the Office of the City Planning Commissioner, Natchez, Miss.

H. D. B.

A.I.A. COMMITTEE NEWS

Under the chairmanship of Earl H. Reed of Chicago, the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings of the American Institute of Architects met in Washington, and at *Woodlawn Plantation* between sessions and special events of the National Trust meeting. At the meeting in Virginia, the committee and guests discussed the use that can be made of the Trust's Preservation Legislation series to assist local chapters, and to further the study being made by Dr. Emil Lorch. A preliminary inventory card form was approved for the recording of historic buildings in the A.I.A. program, which Thomas C. Vint will put into final form and issue with a detailed instruction sheet. Carl Feiss advocated that preservation architects devote attention to the potentiality of redeveloping historic but blighted areas of many early cities under the Federal Housing Act of 1949.

Those attending the committee meetings included: Mrs. Agnes Gilchrist, Turpin Bannister, Stuart M. Barnette, Charles E. Peterson, A. E. Kendrew, Charles W. Lessig, Bryden B. Hyde, James Bowman, Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, George E. Pettingill, and Dick Sutton.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

The Old Sagg-Harbour Committee has published a third edition of its handsomely illustrated booklet by Nancy Boyd Willey, *A Tour of Historic Sag Harbor and its Colonial Architecture*. This readable volume, with maps, drawings and index, serves as a guide to the town when it holds open house in support of its preservation program, and for the buildings which remain open to the public throughout the year.

An Historic Sites Committee is being established by the National Conference on State Parks. Erwin C. Zepp, Director of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, has been named chairman.

The Bayou LaFourche Plantation Tour will be held in April this year, with buses leaving for the old sugar belt section of Louisiana from New Orleans. Among the famous old plantation houses which will be open are *Magnolia, Oak Terrace, Sunshine, Glenwood* (owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Munson) and *Madewood*. The Garden Clubs will have special displays in the different mansions. The tours are under the auspices of the New Orleans Spring Fiesta Association.

The American Jewish Historical Society has published the first in a series of projected studies of the history of the settlement of the Jews west of the Mississippi as No. 2 in *Studies in American Jewish History*. The book, by Leon L. Waters, a descendant of California and Utah pioneers, is *Pioneer Jews of Utah*.

The recently-organized Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities assumed responsibility for restoration of the state-owned home of one of Knoxville's pioneer citizens, Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey. Ramsey was a physician, banker, teacher, railroader and leader in community affairs known for an authoritative history of his state, *Annals of Tennessee*. The stone and marble structure was built in 1797 after designs by the English architect, Thomas Hope.

Nina Fletcher Little is the author of *American Decorative Wall Paintings*, just published by Old Sturbridge Village as the first in its series of original contributions to the study of New England history and culture, designed for the general reader. The volume is a comprehensive survey of the field, illustrated with 150 plates, 6 in full color, and treating of such subjects as House Painting, Overmantel Landscapes, Chimney Boards and Science Panoramas.

Sidney J. Phillips, president of The Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial in Virginia, and Dr. G. Lake Imes, its vice president, have been named as collaborators to advise the National Park Service on the development of Carver National Monument, Mo., and its interpretation to the public.

Thomas Everett has returned from a plant-hunting expedition to the British Isles, a trip sponsored by the Garden Club of America. More than 300 new and rare varieties of plants and shrubs were transported in miniature greenhouses on the upper deck of the *Queen Elizabeth* to be distributed to garden enthusiasts throughout the country. A yellow lilac from Holland, a tulip tree from China, a magnificant Bauhinia tree with large yellow flowers seen by early travelers to Hong Kong and finally propagated at Kew Gardens, are among the horticultural treasures brought back by the expedition.

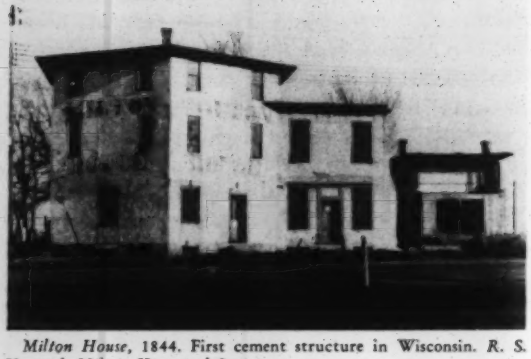
Two issues of the *Wyman Foundation Bulletin*, published by the William Wyman Memorial Foundation, Inc., have been received. They name the Trustees and committees appointed to campaign to save *Wyman Villa* on the grounds of Johns Hopkins University. Newly uncovered evidence proves that the villa was designed by the noted architect, Richard Upjohn.

The City Planning Committee of the San Antonio Conservation Society, Texas, has adopted a form for a survey of the buildings, parks and landscape features of the city which should be preserved. It includes space for identification, location, description and history, photographs, drawings, and evaluation. In this latter category there are three groups, *emergency* for those in danger of destruction or serious alteration, *most important*, and *important*, which are based on architectural, historical, aesthetic and civic values of each project.

ANTIQUES FORUM

Sponsored jointly by the Magazine ANTIQUES and Colonial Williamsburg, the Fifth Annual Antiques Forum is scheduled for two similar five-day sessions, January 19-23 and 26-30. The general theme of the programs will be "European Influences in American Architecture up to the Revolution." Hardinge Scholle, Consultant on the National Trust Staff, will report on his summer course as guest of the British National Trust. Other Trust members participating are Charles E. Peterson of Independence National Historic Park Project, Philadelphia; Richard H. Howland of the Art Department, Johns Hopkins University; Henry P. McIlhenny of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Joseph Downs of Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum; Arthur Pierce Middleton of Colonial Williamsburg; Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield of Montchanin, Del.; and Frank O. Spinney of Old Sturbridge Village.

Information about program and reservations may be obtained from Mrs. Alma Lee Rowe, Registrar, Goodwin Building, Williamsburg, Va.



Milton House, 1844. First cement structure in Wisconsin. *R. S. Howard, Milton Historical Society.*

PROPOSED PRESERVATIION

Greenfield Village, Mich.—The H. J. Heinz home, where in 1869 the pickle producer founded his food business, is being dismantled in Pittsburgh for removal to the Village and the Henry Ford Museum nearby. It will take its place in the 200 acres of mementoes of American life from colonial times to the present, which include among others, the historic homes of Noah Webster, Luther Burbank, Robert Frost and the Wright Brothers.

Milton, Wis.—Milton Historical Society is engaged in a campaign to raise funds to complete the restoration of Milton House (1844) as a museum and library. The State of Wisconsin made a grant of $15,000 to help preserve this unique cement structure constructed by Joseph Goodrich, which adjoins the Old Log Cabin (1837), the first house in the town. Hugo Logemann of Milwaukee is architect.

Lake George, N. Y.—Fort William Henry, scene of one of the greatest massacres of the French and Indian War, will be reconstructed by a private corporation, which has acquired the fort ruins, the old Fort William Henry Hotel and 19 acres around this historic site.

Eureka, Calif.—Business, professional and industrial leaders have formed a Carson Club to preserve the old Victorian Carson Mansion, one of the state's most ornate landmarks of the period.

Erie, Pa.—Creation of an historical park along lower State Street is being urged by the City Finance Director. He advocates moving to this more accessible location the Perry Memorial House, and the Wayne blockhouse. Already in the area is the *Niagara* and the prow of the *Wolverine*.

New York, N. Y.—Cherry Lane Theatre at 38 Commerce Street in Greenwich Village has been acquired by sentimental villagers from the Gomez family who have owned it since 1819. Commercial interests planning to raze the building for a large modern apartment were outbid by friends of the experimental playhouse. The *Times* commented "Theatres of this kind have their place as proving grounds for ideas, actors, directors and scenic designers. There is always the possibility that another Eugene O'Neill or Robert Edmund Jones may emerge."

Birmingham, Ala.—More than 20 civic organizations have endorsed the proposal to raise funds to make an historic memorial of *Arlington*, the ante-bellum house of Judge William S. Mudd. Union General James Wilson and his staff made their headquarters in the house during the Civil War, while their forces destroyed iron furnaces in the area, and marched on Selma and Tuscaloosa.

Baldwin, Kansas—The Live and Learn Home Demonstration Unit is contributing to the restoration of *Old Castle*, the first college building in the territory, which is one of the projects of the Community Planning Council of Baldwin.

Excavations at Saugus, Massachusetts, of the First Ironworks, 1646-1675. In the center stands the original Ironmaster's House which has been restored and furnished by the First Iron Works Association, as a monument to early American industry. *Richard Merrill, First Iron Works Association.*

IN DANGER

Valley Forge, Pa.—King of Prussia Inn, which since 1709 has offered refreshment to man and beast traveling an early thoroughfare of Pennsylvania, is about to succumb to that very thoroughfare as plans for the Pennsylvania turnpike extension threaten its destruction. The building itself has been offered to any historical group that will preserve or remove it, and destruction has been delayed for some time in the hope of finding interested groups who will save the Inn where George Washington often dined, which was occupied by British officers, and which again saw troops in movement in the Civil War. Director Donald A. Cadzow of the State Historical and Museum Commission estimates that cost of restoring the original stone structure would be about $75,000.

Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.—Van Cortlandt Manor House, for three centuries the home of one of New York's founding families is now threatened with conversion to industrial use. The house with its numerous dependencies, gardens, and orchards originally was surrounded by manorial holdings of thousands of acres along the Hudson. Its remaining twelve acres are now in the heart of the village of Croton-on-Hudson, across from a Starlight Drive-in theatre, and on a heavily-traveled main street. Those opposing the rezoning for industrial use have appealed to the National Trust for advice and several alternative solutions will be proposed to the village zoning board at its January hearing.

Sierra Madre, Calif.—The old Sierra Madre Hotel, a tourist attraction and landmark of the San Gabriel Valley, is to be razed and replaced by a modern tourist court. It was used as a motion picture location for a film on early California, and served as a rest home and a fraternity before the present owners proposed its destruction.

Dumfries, Va.—When Dumfries was the thriving center of colonial Virginia's tobacco trade, the Office of the Tobacco Inspector hummed with activity. Through this old port town General Braddock marched on his fatal French and Indian War expedition; Light Horse Harry Lee met here with Dumfries Minute Men; and George Washington and George Mason were familiar visitors. Today broad U. S. Highway No. 1 has crowded much of the remaining vestiges of colonial prosperity off the road, and the Tobacco Inspector's Office is falling into ruin. Its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Brawner, who live in a modern house on the old property, are hopeful of its restoration and are willing for it to be opened to the public.

Portland, Ore.—Portland's "Abraham Lincoln House," copy of the president's Springfield, Ill., home, may have taken its last ride this summer. Orginally built as a feature of the Lewis and Clark exposition in 1905, the house was purchased by Eric Ladd, a builder, who bought and moved the Kamm house, and bought and razed the pioneer Knapp house. All three structures have been moved to a tract of land near South Market, and the Portland *Oregonian* reports, "The future of all is uncertain."

Grand Rapids, Mich.—For $7,500 one of Kent County's most romantic landmarks, Old Fisk Lake Tavern, might be purchased. The inn, more than a century old, was built of brick from local clay and timber from the surrounding forest. Despite the fact that it served in later years as a stable and then as a garage, vestiges of its old glory remain in the ragged wallpaper in a second floor ballroom and in some of the fine old woodwork. The Grand Rapids Historical Society hopes to find means to save the structure which has been offered for sale at the above price for just the land value by a sub-division company.

Fort Lee, N. J.—Members of the Hudson River Conservation Society, the Palisades Nature Association, and the Palisades Inter-state Park Commission, and state nature and historic societies are attempting to save 15 acres of town land, the site of Revolutionary Fort Lee. A building promoter has offered the community $15,000 an acre for the site, on which he proposes to erect a15-story apartment house development.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Since last reported in the quarterly, the following preservation groups have enrolled as member organizations of the National Trust, bringing the total to 113:

Arkansas Territorial Capitol Restoration; Eastern National Park and Monument Association; Board of Regents, Gunston Hall (Va.); Gates Mills Historical Society (Ohio); Historic Annapolis, Inc.; The Lantern League (Boston); Louisiana Landmarks Society; Plimoth Plantation, Inc. (Mass.); Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Stonington Historical Society, (Conn.); Women's City Club (Boston); and Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation (Va.)

DESTRUCTION

View of Charleston, S. C., in April, 1865, from the Circular Church, from photograph in Library of Congress collection by *George N. Barnard*, reproduced in DIVIDED WE FOUGHT: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR 1861-1865 by Hirst Milholland and Milton Kaplan.

Potters Mills, Pa.—Fire completely destroyed the historic home of Revolutionary General James Potter. The building, erected in 1788, had been completely renovated and furnished as headquarters by the Potters Mills Veterans of Foreign Wars.

New Haven, Conn.—So sturdily constructed was the old pre-Revolutionary dwelling in the Springfield farm area, that when it was decided to demolish it to make way for a road to a new housing development, it looked too difficult and expensive to raze. With the blessing of the Board of Aldermen, the Fire Department set it on fire. As reported by Francis Sugrue, it burned for more than 45 minutes, while several hundred children and adults watched "like delighted pixies."

Ashtabula, Ohio—One of the city's oldest houses, built by George Willard, "The Merchant Prince of Ashtabula," has been razed to make room for a parking lot. President Lincoln and his cabinet were supposed to have met here to plan the Battle of Gettysburg.

San Francisco, Calif.—Sutro Baths on Point Lobos cliffs closed their doors for the last time on Labor Day. Auctioneers and wreckers moved in on the famous baths built in 1896 by Adolph Sutro, who used a substantial portion of his Mother Lode gold to build a colorful and spectacular natatorium for his favorite city.

Richmond, Ind.—The venerable West Grove Friends Meeting House purchased by the Cavalry Baptist Church has been razed. The timbers and other salvageble materials will be used for new Baptist Sunday school rooms.

Galesburg, Mich.—Built in 1834 before Michigan was admitted as a state, the town's oldest and most historic house has been wrecked to make room for a branch bank building.

Allentown, Pa.—The Lehigh Canal Lockhouse at the dam north of Hamilton Street bridge is being razed because it is out of repair and has outlived its usefulness. There were once 48 such locktender's houses on the canal when the barges carried more than a million tons of coal through them annually. Today less than a dozen remain.

Chicago, Ill.—The 41-room Edith Rockefeller McCormick mansion, one of Chicago's lakefront architectural monuments since 1897, is to be demolished and replaced by a skyscraper apartment and business project.